

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1, 4, 14-16, 19, 29 and 32 have been amended. Claims 3, 18 and 31 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4-17, 19-30 and 32-41 are presented for examination.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 3-8, 18-23 and 31-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the features of the base claims and intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kenner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,502,125). In addition, claims 1, 2, 9, 10-17, 24-30 and 37-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ehrman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0040479). Applicants submit that the above rejections have been obviated by the amendment of the claims to include the allowable subject matter indicated in the Office Action. For example, independent claims 1, 14-16 and 29 have all been amended to include a plurality of nodes arranged in the form of a virtual tree that has been indicated as a feature, which if included in the independent claims would be allowable. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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